

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 SS-20 HEW-08 DRC-01 AGR-20 /153 W

----- 011439

R 020625Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6453

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

USUN NEW YORK 375

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 7483

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, LA, UN

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - LAO REQUEST FOR UNFDAC ASSISTANCE

REF: A. GENEVA 5731

B. STATE 213983

C. BANGKOK 15073 (NOTAL)

1. THIS MISSION HAS GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSITION THAT UNFDAC MIGHT UNDERTAKE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM IN LAOS SIMILAR TO PROGRAM ALREADY UNDERWAY IN THAILAND. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT, PRIOR TO CEASEFIRE IN LAOS, EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT--IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE. NOW THAT HOSTILITIES GENERALLY HAVE COME TO A HALT. UNFDAC INVOLVEMENT IN LAOS CAN BE CONSIDERED.

2. ANY UNFDAC PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN IN RLG-CONTROLLED ZONE. LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) REPRESENTATIVE HAS INDICATED IN CONVERSATION THAT PERSONNEL FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO OPERATE IN LPF-

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CONTROLLED AREAS AT ANY TIME. OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE MORE

THAN ADEQUATE POPPY-GROWING AREAS IN RLG-CONTROLLED AREA
TO ALLOW UNFDAC TO GET PILOT CROP SUBSTITUTION UNDERWAY
IMMEDIATELY.

3. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY FACT THAT REQUEST FOR UNFDAC
ASSISTANCE CAME FROM RLG ITSELF. AS A RESULT OF SEPTEMBER
TRI-COUNTRY MEETING BRIEFING IN CHIANG MAI ON UNFDAC
PROJECT IN THAILAND, WE BELIEVE THAT UNFDAC IN LAOS MUST
FUNCTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EXISTING LAO MINISTERIAL
BUREAUCRACY AND THAT ANY UNFDAC PROJECT HERE SHOULD BE
PRIMARILY A MATTER BETWEEN RLG MINISTRY OF PLAN AND THE
APPROPRIATE UN REPRESENTATIVES STATIONED IN VIENTIANE.
USG INVOLVEMENT SHOULD BE CONFINED TO ASSURING THAT ANY
RLG/USAID CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS ARE INTIMATELY
COORDINATED WITH UN EFFORTS SO AS TO AVOID NEEDLESS DUPLI-
CATION OF EFFORTS AND THE RESULTANT LOSS OF SCARCE RESOURCES.

4. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT USMISSION
GENEVA TO INFORM UNFDAC REPRESENTATIVES GENEVA THAT WE
FAVOR UN-SPONSORED CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT IN LAOS. AT
THE SAME TIME, IF WE ARE TO HAVE A MEANINGFUL PROGRAM IN
LAOS, WE BELIEVE USMISSION GENEVA SHOULD URGE UNFDAC
REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES
OF THE RLG AND NOT TRY TO GO IT ALONE.
WHITEHOUSE

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